

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: February 6, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:33 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:18 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Dane Mahern, Chairman
Ron Gibson
Scott Keller
Angela Mansfield
Jackie Nytes
Marilyn Pfisterer
Mike Speedy
Steve Talley

Absent Members

Lance Langsford

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 437, 2005 - requires project sponsors who receive Federal entitlement funds distributed by the Department of Metropolitan Development employ at least ten (10) persons on any such project so funded from the service district of the sponsor
“Held for further study”

Vote: 6-0

Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative and Economic Improvement Districts – presentation by William Taft

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council met on Monday, February 6, 2006. Chair Dane Mahern called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. with the following members present: Ron Gibson, Scott Keller, Angela Mansfield, Marilyn Pfisterer and Steve Talley. Arriving shortly thereafter were Councillors Jackie Nytes and Mike Speedy. Absent was Lance Langsford.

PROPOSAL NO. 437, 2005 - requires project sponsors who receive Federal entitlement funds distributed by the Department of Metropolitan Development employ at least ten (10) persons on any such project so funded from the service district of the sponsor

Chair Mahern stated that the sponsor and the members of the Department of Metropolitan Development have been meeting but would like to further study the proposal.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Talley, to hold the proposal for further study. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

[Clerk's note: Councillor Nytes arrived 5:36 p.m.]

Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative and Economic Improvement Districts – presentation by William Taft

William Taft, Program Director for Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), discussed the Economic Improvement Districts (Exhibit A, attached). He said LISC is involved in the Fostering Commercial Urban Strategies (FOCUS) initiative for the City of Indianapolis. FOCUS is a commercial corridor revitalization program that was developed four years ago.

[Clerk's note: Councillor Speedy arrived 5:40 p.m.]

Mr. Taft said LISC has been working in implementing Economic Improvement Districts (EIDs) in which property owners in a certain area can choose to assess additional property taxes against themselves. He said excess dollars collected are directed back to the neighborhood, and a neighborhood governing board decides how the funds are used. Mr. Taft said the majority of the property owners have to agree with the increase in property tax before EIDs can be established. He said some of the neighborhoods that have shown an interest in EIDs are: Fountain Square, Massachusetts Avenue corridor, East 10th Street, Indiana Avenue, and Downtown.

Councillor Mansfield asked if consideration has been given to increased taxes on businesses in the selected districts. Mr. Taft said the districts that tend to adopt EIDs are those that are on the upswing and would look at EIDs as an investment.

Councillor Gibson asked where in Indiana they are currently doing the EIDs initiative.

Mr. Taft said cities that compare to Indianapolis that use EIDs are: Denver, Cleveland, Chicago, etc. Councillor Gibson asked if there are some neighborhoods that are currently pursuing a petition with the Council to establish EIDs. Mr. Taft said the three that seem interested are: Massachusetts Avenue corridor, Fountain Square, and Downtown.

Councillor Pfisterer asked if property owners in EIDs who are against the increase are still assessed. Mr. Taft replied in the affirmative. Councillor Pfisterer asked if there is a standard levy assess. Mr. Taft said this is part of what is being evaluated.

Councillor Keller said Massachusetts Avenue has done something similar to EIDs where some businesses put in an extra \$50 a month, and with that money they were able to hire extra security, flowers for the neighborhood, and receive matching grants from various groups.

Councillor Nytes asked for an investigation on the feasibility of using EIDs to support capital improvements and green space within the neighborhood. Mr. Taft said that investigation can be done.

Councillor Speedy asked if the procedures of the neighborhood board are through State law. Mr. Taft said the board and board procedures have to be approved by Council. Councillor Speedy asked if EIDs is similar to the Barrett Law. Mr. Taft said functionally it is similar to the Barrett Law.

Mr. Taft continued with the second half of his presentation and said the Great Indy Neighborhoods initiative was started by neighborhood development organizations in Indianapolis. In October 2004 a Community Development Summit was held where community leaders discussed what was important to their neighborhoods and their vision. Mr. Taft gave a presentation on Great Indy Neighborhoods which can be found at www.greatindyneighborhoods.org. Great Indy Neighborhoods is based on 11 principles of healthy neighborhoods (Exhibit B, attached):

1. Leadership
2. Vision
3. Education
4. Safety
5. Collaboration
6. Economy
7. Environment
8. Housing
9. Culture
10. Mixed-use
11. Services

CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Metropolitan Development Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dane Mahern, Chair
Metropolitan Development Committee

DM/as

